NEXSEN PRUET

Marcus A. Manos Member Admitted in SC, NC, DC

January 23, 2008

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Charles L.A. Terreni Chief Clerk/Administrator South Carolina Public Service Commission Synergy Office Park 101 Executive Center Drive Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Application of Palmetto State Utility Services, Inc. for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity / Docket No. 2007-356-WS

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Charleston Charlotte Enclosed for filing with the Public Service Commission is an original and six copies of the **Settlement Agreement** in the above referenced matter. Please return a clocked-in copy to me via our courier.

Columbia

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Greensboro Greenville

With best regards, I am

Hilton Head

Very truly yours,

Myrtle Beach

Marcus A. Manos

MAM/hjr Enclosures

cc w/encl.:

Shealy Boland Reibold, Esquire

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA



DOCKET NO. 2007-356-WS

IN RE:

Application of Palmetto State Utility Services, Inc. for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") is made by and among the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") and Palmetto State Utility Services, Inc. ("PSUS") (collectively referred to as the "Parties" or "Party").

WHEREAS, PSUS filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on September 27, 2007;

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2007, counsel for ORS entered a Notice of Appearance in this matter;

WHEREAS on October 9, 2007, the Commission issued a Notice of Filing and Hearing and established a return date of November 12, 2007, for the filing of letters of protest or petitions to intervene and established a hearing date of January 31, 2008;

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2007, PSUS pre-filed the direct testimony of McClellan Harris, III with the Commission;

WHEREAS, the Parties to this Agreement¹ are the only parties of record in the

¹Although the novation of the contract with the United States from American States Utility Service ("ASUS") to PSUS is still pending, PSUS expects this novation agreement to become effective in the near future. As such, ASUS is not a necessary party to this Agreement.

above-captioned docket and there are no other parties of record in the above-captioned proceeding;

WHEREAS, the Parties have engaged in discussions to determine if a settlement of this proceeding would be in their best interest and, in ORS's case, in the public interest;

WHEREAS, following those discussions, the Parties have each determined that their interests, and ORS has determined that the public interest, would be best served by settling the above-captioned proceeding under the terms and conditions set forth below:

- 1. The Parties agree that PSUS's Application and exhibits to the Application are incorporated into this Settlement Agreement and made a part hereof;
- 2. The Parties agree to stipulate into the record before the Commission this Settlement Agreement. The Parties also agree to stipulate to the pre-filed testimony of PSUS's witness without cross-examination by ORS;
- 3. PSUS will provide annual reports, per Sections 103-512.1 and 103-712.1 of the South Carolina Code of Annotated Regulations, to allow ORS to verify that PSUS's sales related to water and sewer services in South Carolina are made strictly to the federal government.
- 4. PSUS will file a Utility Representative Form (SCORS /Form 2007) as found at http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov/ORSContent.asp?pageID=672 (the ORS's website) and update the form as necessary.
- 5. PSUS will agree that ORS's consent to the waivers requested in the Application will become null and void should PSUS serve any customers in South Carolina in addition to the federal government.

- 6. PSUS understands that if it intends to provide water and sewer services off-base or to customers other than the federal government in South Carolina, PSUS will be required to submit certain additional information and request the approval of the South Carolina Public Service Commission (the "Commission").
- 7. PSUS will contact Jeff deBessonet of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ("DHEC"), or his replacement if Mr. deBessonet is no longer employed by DHEC in his current capacity, by not later than April 1, 2008, and request that he provide a letter stating that the water and sewer systems located at Fort Jackson are authorized by DHEC to provide water and sewer service.
- 8. Given the unique circumstances of the application and the financial guaranty already provided by American States Water Company to American States Utility Services, Inc. (PSUS's parent corporation), PSUS will not be required to post performance bonds to acquire/operate/maintain/expand/improve the water and sewer systems at Fort Jackson for the federal government. The above-referenced guaranty is satisfactory to the federal government in lieu of a performance bond. PSUS understands that this performance bond issue will be revisited should PSUS offer services off-base or to customers other than the federal government in South Carolina.
- 9. PSUS agrees to comply with all rules and regulations of the Commission unless the Commission has expressly waived such rule or regulation;
- 10. The Parties agree to cooperate in good faith with one another in recommending to the Commission that this Agreement be accepted and approved by the Commission as a fair, reasonable and full resolution of the above-captioned proceeding. The Parties agree to use reasonable efforts to defend and support any Commission order

Commission decline to approve this Agreement in its entirety, then any Party desiring to withdraw from this Agreement may do so without penalty.

- 12. This Agreement shall be interpreted according to South Carolina law.
- 13. Each Party acknowledges its consent and agreement to this Agreement by authorizing its counsel to affix his or her signature to this document where indicated below. Counsel's signature represents his or her representation that his or her client has authorized the execution of this Agreement. Facsimile signatures and e-mail signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party. This document may be signed in counterparts, with the various signature pages combined with the body of the document constituting an original and provable copy of this Agreement.

WE AGREE:

Representing and Binding the Office of Regulatory Staff

Shealy Boland Rubold 1/23/08

Shealy Boland Reibold

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

1441 Main Street, Suite 300

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Phone: (803) 737-0863 / Facsimile: (803) 737-0895

WE AGREE:

Representing and Binding Palmetto State Utility Services, Inc.

Marcus A. Manos, SC Bar No. 011876

NEXSEN PRUET, LLC

Post Office Drawer 2426

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Phone: (803) 253-8275 / Fax: (803) 727-1467

MManos@nexsenpruet.com

1/23/2008